

To whom it may concern:

Regarding the seismic retrofit of 627 Main Street, Richmond CA, 94804

I am the owner and founder of Bay Area Retrofit, a residential seismic retrofit company that was established 25 years ago.

I am writing this letter to inform you that I personally inspected the retrofit we performed. I am happy to tell you that it exceeds the requirements for earthquake resistance found in brand new homes in your seismic zone. This included both the cripple wall retrofit and the steel column retrofit. I also performed [engineering calculations](#) to confirm this.

I examined the steel column work on the right side of the garage to make sure the design created by the engineer was meticulously adhered to. I found that the actual work precisely matched the plans drawn by the engineer.

If qualifications matter to you, I have been on both regional and national seismic retrofit code committees, been on local and national television as a nationally recognized expert, and am published in a national trade magazine. These and other achievements are described in the next two pages.

Howard Cook

Howard Cook M.A.
Founder/Owner Bay Area Retrofit
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Professional Highlights

[Vice Chair](#) of a seismic retrofit building code committee.

Co-author of [Standard Plan A](#) used by the California Earthquake Authority as well as building departments all over the Bay Area.

Course Instructor: [“Principles and Practice of Earthquake Retrofitting”](#) 2014 presented by the Association of Bay Area Governments.

Author of article [“Seismic Retrofit for Cripple Walls”](#); The Journal of Light Construction. April 2006.

Featured expert [“The Hayward Fault. Predictable Peril.”](#) KQED, Channel 9.

Contributing Contractor [“California Works to Prepare for the Big One”](#), PBS News Hour. This is a compilation of both the "The Hayward Fault. Predictable Peril" and the NewsHour documentaries.

Featured Expert in the ["S.F. Homeowners Need To Be Ready"](#) in the S.F. Chronicle

Source for this article in the [New York Times](#)

Guest Lecturer [“Retrofit Principles and Practice for the Home Inspection Industry”](#) Sponsored by the Golden Gate Chapter of the American Society of Home Inspectors.

Keynote speaker [“The Preservation of Historical Wood-Framed Buildings”](#) Sponsored by The City of Victoria Heritage Foundation in British Columbia.

Mayoral Appointee to the Berkeley Disaster Commission as a [seismic retrofit expert](#).

Guest Lecturer: [“Retrofit Principles and Practice for the Canadian Home Inspection Industry,”](#) sponsored by the Canadian Association of Home and Property Inspectors.

Primary source for an article in the [The Mercury News](#) on Soft Story Retrofitting.

Featured contractor in ["The Danger Beneath"](#) in the East Bay Express

Residential Damage Inspector, FEMA. 1989-1994.

Member Associations

- [Earthquake Engineering Research Institute](#)
- [Structural Engineers Association of Northern California](#)

Publications by Bay Area Retrofit

- Co-Author with Wendy Allen, Engineer for Simpson Strong Tie, [“Mudsill Anchorage Systems in Cripple Wall Retrofits”](#), 2007.
- Co-Author and currently updating Bay Area's Retrofit Guidelines: [“Standard Plan A, Residential Seismic Strengthening Plan”](#), The International Code Council, 2005.
- [“Homeowner’s Guide to Seismic Retrofitting.”](#)
- Many other publications are available in the [PDF Library](#) at BayAreaRetrofit.com.